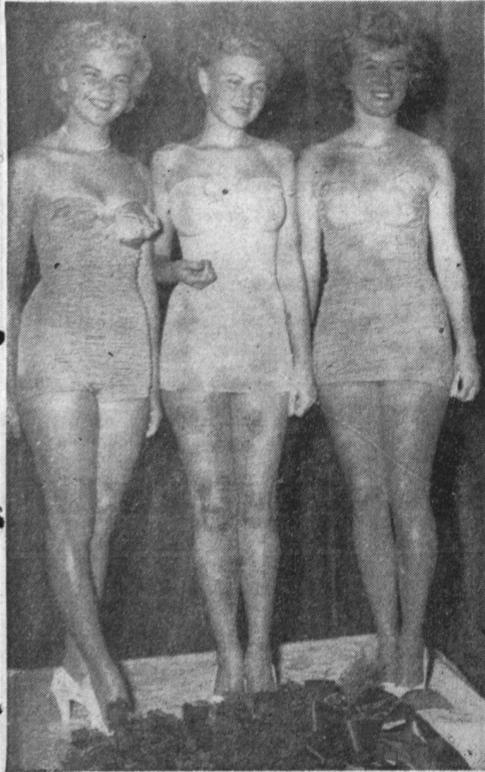


City Backs Request for Circuit Judge

DRAINAGE BOND ASKED



QUEEN AND HER COURT—Shirley Jeanne White (center) was named Miss Torrance of 1952 in a judging held last Thursday in the Civic Auditorium. Her attendants are Barbara Williams (left) and Shirley Jean Atchley. Formal coronation will take place at the Palos Verdes Country Club on August 16th.

Torrance PRESS

SERVING TORRANCE, LOMITA, SHOESTRING, HARBOR CITY AND KEYSTONE

The Largest Circulation Newspaper in Torrance and Lomita

VOLUME IV

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA — THURSDAY, JULY 24, 1952

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60,000 READERS

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Phone Torrance 1185

New Fire Posts Filled

PROMOTE WALKER, WHITNEY

Neil T. Whitney and Eugene K. Walker were this week named to fill the two newly-established posts of Battalion Chief of the Torrance Fire Department, according to Fire Chief J. J. Benner.

Both men had been fire captains. They assumed their new duties the first of this week, Benner disclosed.

As battalion chiefs, Walker and Whitney will each command one of the two 24-hour alternating fire shifts. They will be first in command under Chief Benner.

Civil Service Test

Walker and Whitney were among four Torrance fire captains who took civil service examinations for the posts here last month.

Four new fire captains were also appointed this week, two to fill vacancies left by the battalion chief promotions, and two to fill new captain jobs. They are Robert R. Lucas, Robert Moffitt, Leonard Christian, and Walter R. West. Other fire captains are Gordon Northington and Ivan Ketterling.

Navy Duty

West is currently on duty with the United States Navy. He is (Continued on Page 4)



FIRE CHIEF J. J. BENNER—(center) congratulates Eugene K. Walker (left) and Neil T. Whitney on their appointments to Battalion Chief. Each of the new BCs will command one of the two alternating 24-hour fire shifts in the downtown fire station.

Election Consolidation Demanded By Citizens

A drive to consolidate council, school and bond elections is gaining impetus as citizens' committees prepare plans for the circulation of petitions to force the Torrance City Council to take action.

At a recent meeting of Torrance Unified Taxpayers, Councilman Nick Drale pointed out that the minimum financial requirements for each election held in this city is \$10,000.

He noted that three city elections have been held this year: council, water bonds, and school board members. These elections have cost the city over \$35,000. In one of these elections only 10 per cent of the voters cast ballots, another had a 13 per cent showing.

Air Freight Warehouse OK'd

Tentative approval was granted to a request for permission to build a warehouse on Torrance Municipal Airport.

The proposed 50 x 75 foot cement block structure would be used for storage of air freight, City Manager George Stevens said. He did not disclose the name of the owner of the future building.

If all three had been consolidated into one election, the cost would have been less than \$15,000, he stated.

The Torrance Press has strongly advocated the consolidation of city elections.

Amendment Asked

In a written communication to the city council, Torrance Unified Taxpayers demanded that the council take immediate steps to place upon the November general

How Mr. Starr Sold His Car

There was a young man named Starr.

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For immediate sale at your price, advertise with those action-packed Press Classified Ads.

Call Torrance 1185, and a courteous classified ad taker will be happy to assist you in writing an ad that will really get results.

election ballot, for a vote by the citizens of Torrance, an amendment to the City Charter consolidating the election of council members and other elected city officials with the election of school board members, and consolidating all bond elections of the City of Torrance and Torrance Unified School District with the general election.

The letter was read at Tuesday's council meeting, and filed as a matter of record.

Other Council Action

Letter from Charles T. Rippe protesting a proposed tax of \$25 on subdivision lots for future purchase of land for civic buildings was read. The council has not acted on the tax proposal, and (Continued on Page 8)

Propose Sale Of City Lots

Councilman Nick Drale Tuesday night urged the council to survey all city owned lots, and determine which are not needed by the city.

Those that are not needed should be sold, and the money appropriated for the use of the Recreation Commission, he proposed.

The matter was referred to the next agenda meeting.

Lake Walteria To Get Storm Drain

More than \$338,000 will be spent to correct the condition that caused Lake Walteria following the heavy rains last January, if Los Angeles County voters approve a \$179,000,000 storm drain bond issue which will appear on the November 4th ballot.

TAX CUT DEMANDS IGNORED

Efforts of the Torrance Unified Taxpayers to have the proposed city tax rate hike cut from .03c to .01c met with a silent treatment at Tuesday's meeting of the Torrance City Council.

A second written protest from the taxpayers organization was read, and then filed by the council as a matter of record. The budget hearing, second and final, was then closed.

Increased Revenue

The TUT communication pointed out that increased assessed valuation and other increased revenues added sufficiently to the city coffers to justify only a .01c tax climb.

A request from the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, Inc. for an increase in the city's advertising appropriation from \$5,000 to \$7,500 met with what appeared to be a more favorable reaction, however. Though the public budget hearings were closed, it appears that further consideration will be given to this request.

Large Surplus

The letter from the Torrance Unified Taxpayers also pointed out that it is not "good practice to maintain the large surplus fund as in past years." The taxpayers group contends that it would be "more beneficial that the taxpayers realize some tax relief."

The budget was not approved, despite the closing of the public hearings, and no date has as yet been set for approval. The proposed tax rate will not be set until sometime in August.

Council Ups Square Feet In Houses

Torrance City Council Tuesday night passed a measure which upped minimum square foot requirements for single family dwellings from a flat demand of 800 sq. ft. to 850 sq. ft. for two bedroom homes and 950 sq. ft. for three bedroom structures.

The bill, a recommendation from the city engineer's office, passed unanimously.

A reinforced concrete pipe running along the north side of the Torrance Municipal Airport to 248th St. and Pennsylvania Ave. will carry to water that collects in the Walteria Lake hollow into a proposed drainage sump at the northwest corner of 236th St. and Madison Ave.

Two other Torrance drainage projects are included in the proposal. A central Torrance system to cost \$834,300 calls for drain pipes along Plaza Del Amo to Arlington, down that street to 220th, and over to Cabrillo. The line will follow Cabrillo to Torrance Blvd., and down that street to almost the western boundary of the city.

This pipe will be adjoined by two others, one to cross Border and Sartori down to Dominguez St., and another to run along Carson St. to Gramercy Ave.

A second major installation calls for a concrete pipe along Arlington from Redondo Beach Blvd. through North Torrance to the Dominguez Channel. This project is to cost \$362,600.

The bond proposal was placed on the ballot by the County Board of Supervisors at the request of a majority of the 45 cities in Los Angeles County, according to a bulletin from Raymond V. Darby, Fourth District Supervisor.

The \$179,000,000 proposed County-wide storm drain bond issue provides for an expenditure of \$48,497,500 in the Fourth District, which represents approximately 28 per cent of the county's total, the communication disclosed.

Little Quake Damage Felt In Torrance

Little local damage was reported in an earthquake that rocked most of California early Monday morning, causing 11 deaths and untold millions of dollars of damage.

A temporary river gushed down Elm St. and Torrance Blvd. when the quake shook the Municipal Water Department's tank so severely that about 50,000 gallons of water slopped over, according to the Police Dept. No damage was caused by the flood, it was reported.

A huge glass window in the A-1 Builders Supply store located on Pacific Highway near Hawthorne Blvd. in Walteria was cracked when violent tremors shook that area.

Police said that no other local quake damage was reported.

Consider Traveling Judge

Reversing a decision made more than a year and a half ago, Supervisor Raymond V. Darby strongly urged this week the authorization of a circuit riding judge to hold traffic court in the eight communities which as of January 1953 will be served by the new court house in Redondo Beach.

At a meeting this week which was attended by representatives of the various communities, Darby voiced the opinion that a hardship would be imposed on the people and cities within the jurisdiction of the new Redondo Beach courthouse, if they were forced to travel a distance of five to fifteen miles in order to pay a \$2 traffic ticket. This is the culmination of an extensive campaign by the Torrance Press urging the for-

Annexation Tax Costs Told Here

The annexation of the Keystone, Avalon Carson, and Dominguez areas to the Metropolitan Water District will cost the average homeowner approximately \$9 to \$10 a year for 30 years, according to Warren W. Butler, vice-president of the MWD.

Speaking before an audience of over 40 persons who attended the annual installation meeting of the Carson Chamber of Commerce Monday evening, Warren pointed out that a major reason for annexation of the area is that there is currently an overdraught of 50,000 acre feet per year from the natural underground water resources in the West Basin Water District, which extends from the ocean on the west to the Inglewood fault on the east, north to

PA Proposals Presented at Council Meet

The Torrance city council Tuesday night dropped the parking problem back into the laps of the Chamber of Commerce, retail merchants, and owners of land in downtown Torrance.

A recommendation of the city Parking Authority asked for rezoning of certain downtown lots for off-street parking only.

One of the councilmen stated that he doubted that the city could legally do this. City Attorney James Hall was not present, so that question went unanswered. Councilman Harvey Spelman expressed the belief that any rezoning would be beneficial.

(Continued on Page 4)

Longren Aircraft—Before and After



THE OLD OUT-MODED—Longren Aircraft plant (below) is a thing of the past, and a new, ultra-modern production center has been built in its place. The streamlined plant at 2576 W. Carson St. will be officially opened tomorrow afternoon. Many civic notables, including Mayor Mervin Schwab and California Secretary of State Frank Jordan will be on hand for the formal dedication.

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